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Rec'd: NOVEMBER 21, 1958
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FROM: LONDON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 2799, NOVEMBER 21, 1 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 2799 REPEATED INFORMATION PRIORITY MOSCOW 73
PRIORITY PARIS 377 PRIORITY BONN 117 BERLIN PRIORITY 10
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PARIS FOR EMBASSY AND USRO

BONNS 1083 TO DEPT

FONOFF OFFICIAL THIS MORNING TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT
STEEL GAVE VON BRENTANO COPY BRITISH MEMORANDUM UNDER
INSTRUCTIONS. FONOFF OFFICIAL EXPLAINED THAT IN VIEW
CRITICISMS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE OF MEMORANDUM, GERMANS
MIGHT HEAR OF IT AND THINK "WE WERE UP TO SOMETHING",
IF IT WERE NOT SHOWN TO THEM.

STEELS REPORT OF MEETING WITH VON BRENTANO (REFTEL)
CONCLUDED AS FOLLOWS: "MY FEELING FROM THIS FIRST
SERIOUS ENCOUNTER IS THE GERMANS ARE GOING TO BE EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT TO MOVE AND IF I FEEL PRETTY SURE CHANCELLOR
WILL BE SUSPICIOUS OF US IN PARTICULAR. FOR THIS PURPOSE
A SHORT MESSAGE FROM PM CONTAINING ENCOURAGEMENT AND
REASSURANCE OF OUR INTENTION TO STAND BY HIM MIGHT BE
VERY USEFUL".

ENBOFF POINTED OUT THAT STATEMENT IT WOULD BE "EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT TO MOVE" GERMANS SEEMED TO IMPLY INTENTION TO
MOVE THEM IN DIRECTION OF UK MEMORANDUM, WHICH WOULD
IMPLY THAT UK MEMORANDUM REPRESENTED HMG POSITION.

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- 2 - 2799, NOVEMBER 21, 1 PM FROM LONDON

CN 12106

Action:

EUR CONTRARY TO WHAT LLOYD TOLD AMBASSADOR WHITNEY (EMBTTEL 2752). FONOFF OFFICIAL REPLIED THAT UK HAD NO INTENTION TRYING TO MOVE GERMANS IF US DID NOT APPROVE. WHEN EMBOFF INQUIRED IF THIS COULD BE ACCEPTED ASSURANCE, FONOFF OFFICIAL ASSENTED.

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Info STEEL HAS QUERIED FONOFF ABOUT WHERE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE HELD, AND FONOFF HAS REITERATED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING THEM IN BONN.

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H FONOFF OFFICIAL STATED LEGAL EXPERTS "UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED" US POSITION THAT NON RECOGNITION GDR ESSENTIAL TO WESTERN LEGAL POSITION IN BERLIN. EMBASSY WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON THIS POINT LATER.

JEBB HAS REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH COUVE NOVEMBER 20 IN WHICH LATTER SAID THAT ON REFLECTION HE THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN AMERICAN CRITICISM OF UK MEMORANDUM, WHICH VIEW SHARED BY HIS WORKING LEVEL. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT CERTAIN THAT DILEMMA POSED IN UK MEMORANDUM WOULD ACTUALLY BE PRESENTED TO US.

WHITNEY

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